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President: Mr. WU Hailong (China)

Later: Ms. WIJewardane (Sri Lanka)

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¹ GC(49)/20.

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Abbreviations used in this record:

ABACC	Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials
AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
APCs	assessed programme costs
ARCAL	Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
Bangkok Treaty	Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone
Basic Safety Standards	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
CANDU	Canada deuterium-uranium [reactor]
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
G8	Group of Eight
HEU	high-enriched uranium
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
INES	International Nuclear Event Scale
INLEX	International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
INSAG	International Nuclear Safety Group
IRRT	International Regulatory Review Team
ITER	International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor
LDC	least developed country
LEU	low-enriched uranium
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NDT	non-destructive testing

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPCs	national participation costs
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OECD/NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PM	particulate matter
R&D	research and development
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
SAGSI	Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation
SIT	sterile insect technique
SQP	small quantities protocol
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
TranSAS	Transport Safety Appraisal Service

8. General debate and Annual Report for 2004 (continued)

1. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) said that the Philippines was one of only a few countries that had a constitutional provision forbidding the presence of nuclear weapons on its territory, hence its strong advocacy of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The international non-proliferation regime was currently facing new challenges and there was a need to redouble efforts to strengthen the NPT's institutional framework. At the NPT Review Conference held in May, the Philippines had called for the universal adoption of the Model Additional Protocol to strengthen the Agency's verification authority. It was regrettable that the NPT Review Conference had failed to achieve consensus on substantive issues and that the United Nations World Summit had yielded no agreement on disarmament or non-proliferation.
2. The Philippines was committed to the fight against terrorism in all its manifestations. It applauded the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and called on Member States to accede to it.
3. His country supported the consensus agreement to amend the CPPNM and his Government would work for the early ratification of the amendment.
4. He reiterated his country's call for shipping States to continue the openness they had demonstrated in recent months in discussing with coastal States important issues relating to communication concerning and notification of shipments. Shipping States should avail themselves of the Agency's TranSAS missions in order to promote transparency.
5. The Philippines welcomed the recent breakthrough in the six-party talks on the DPRK nuclear issue. Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was crucial to the security of the region and to its continued and sustained economic development. He called on the DPRK to uphold its pledge to shut down and dismantle its nuclear weapons programme, to rejoin the NPT and to allow the Agency to return to the country and resume its inspection and verification activities.
6. With regard to the Iranian nuclear issue, the Philippines joined NAM in urging the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Iran to return to the negotiating table. Iran should continue to work closely with the Agency and the international community to provide assurances that its nuclear programme was exclusively for peaceful purposes.
7. Technical cooperation continued to contribute significantly to the sustainable development goals of the Philippines and the Agency played an important role in helping Member States meet the Millennium Development Goals.
8. The Philippines was happy to be participating in a new Agency strategy, the collaborating centre scheme, which was designed to make the implementation of Agency programmes even more effective. The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute had been designated as a collaborating centre in the field of harmful algal blooms and his country looked forward to the implementation of the three-year work plan on that problem developed by the Agency's Marine Environment Laboratory in Monaco together with the Institute.
9. The Agency-funded project on air quality management was gaining recognition among Philippine policymakers. The data were being used by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in preparing its annual national air quality report. They were also being used as a reference for the formulation of the Philippine air quality standard for PM_{2.5}. The Philippine Nuclear Research

Institute was currently negotiating the establishment of an air monitoring station at Davao City. The project would generate the first PM10 particulate mass and composition data for use in pollutant source identification.

10. The Agency was collaborating with the Philippines on the development of salt-tolerant rice varieties. The national expert group on food irradiation had submitted its recommendation that the Department of Agriculture adopt irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment for Philippine fruit for the export market. Technical assistance from the Agency, coupled with bilateral assistance with the upgrading of the country's cobalt-60 irradiation facility, would contribute significantly to addressing product sterilization needs in Philippine industry and provide impetus for the development of new products. The Philippines had recently paid the Agency its cost-sharing funds for that project amounting to US \$100 000. The approval of the use of irradiation to treat food and food products augured well for food irradiation in the country.

11. The Agency-funded project on the use of isotope applications to improve water resources management and protection was gaining recognition in local water districts in the country.

12. Closer collaboration by the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute with relevant stakeholders and end-users was promoting the assimilation of non-power applications of nuclear technology. In partnership with the Philippine Society for Non-Destructive Testing, the Institute continued to serve the needs of industry by conducting NDT training courses and providing expert services. The graduates from those training courses found employment both locally and abroad. Filipino workers overseas availed themselves of the training courses and had reported that the certificates issued by the Institute were accepted by their employers.

13. The Philippines was the lead country in the RCA project on radiation technology for the development of advanced materials and the protection of health and the environment. Under the project, it had used radiation technology to devise new products from carrageenan (one of the country's major natural resources) which had applications in health, agriculture and the environment. The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute had also established new linkages with universities for the development of biocompatible/biodegradable injectable gels for tissue grafts, the development of nanomaterials and the application of radiation processing to industrial waste water treatment.

14. Together with the Group of 77 and China, the Philippines was working with the Secretariat to improve the Agency's recruitment practices and ensure they reflected appropriately the balance of its membership. It also closely followed gender mainstreaming in the Secretariat. Women had made outstanding contributions in the nuclear field and that should be reflected in the Agency's staffing patterns. In that connection, he noted with pleasure that the World Nuclear Association had cited Dr. Alumanda Dela Rosa, Director of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, for her distinguished contribution in the nuclear field.

15. Ms. MELIN (Sweden), recalling that the recent United Nations World Summit had failed to address the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation, said that the world's leaders had remained silent on the threats — both old and new — to international security and how to deal with them. The NPT Review Conference in May 2005 had also failed to take any substantive decisions. Such failures were serious because the threats and challenges were grave and the need for joint and concerted action strong. No country could tackle common threats alone, and without an international legal framework there were insufficient tools to cope with the problems at hand.

16. Despite the recent political setbacks, the NPT, with its delicately balanced obligations, was still legally binding and the Agency played an indispensable role in the implementation of NPT safeguards. Full implementation meant that additional protocols should be in force in all States and Sweden called upon all States that had not yet done so to conclude and bring into force additional protocols.

17. The most proliferation-sensitive parts of the nuclear fuel cycle, enrichment and reprocessing, were again attracting increased international attention. Sweden welcomed the report of the expert group on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and noted that interesting options had been put forward, such as international supply guarantees with Agency participation. The time had come to begin consultations involving the Agency, Member States and industry with the aim of presenting concrete proposals to the Board.

18. The outcome of the latest round of the six-party talks process was encouraging, and her country looked forward to rapid implementation of the commitments made by the DPRK in the joint statement issued after the talks. It also supported the continuing professional, impartial and dedicated efforts of the Director General and his staff to verify the safeguards commitments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and reconstruct the history and nature of all aspects of that country's past nuclear activities, and welcomed the resolution on that issue adopted recently by the Board and contained in document GOV/2005/77.

19. In line with Sweden's energy policy of phasing out nuclear power and transferring to an environmentally sustainable system, a second power reactor had been permanently closed down in May 2005. However, the changeover process would take a long time and it was important that the remaining reactors could be run in an effective and safe manner. Therefore, a number of modernization programmes had been announced for the remaining reactors and the safety authority had issued new regulations on retrofitting of ageing reactors to meet modern standards. Agency safety standards and international cooperation had been a major source of knowledge in formulating the new regulations.

20. Physical protection of nuclear installations and nuclear material had been part of Swedish licensing conditions since the 1970s, but national regulations for nuclear facilities had recently been improved, with new binding requirements for industry some of which required significant investments. The new regulations had been drafted to comply with the amendments to the CPPNM, so that Sweden would be able to ratify the amendments speedily. She urged all Member States to adhere to that Convention and to ratify the amendments as soon as possible.

21. Sweden strongly supported the Agency's safety standards programme. With regard to the safety requirements for geological disposal of radioactive waste recently approved by the Board, in her country's experience finding and agreeing on sites for disposal facilities, and subsequent licensing, required the strong and continuing involvement of all stakeholders — the public as well as regulatory bodies. Sweden's nuclear industry was expected soon to forward licence applications for the construction of an encapsulation plant and a final repository for spent fuel. The Agency's efforts to complete the safeguards approach for back-end facilities in a timely manner were crucial for Member States like Sweden with advanced repository programmes.

22. Her country recognized the importance of the Agency's technical cooperation activities and the contribution they made to sustainable development. As such, it was a faithful contributor to the TCF and had pledged its full share for 2006.

23. Finally, Sweden would be hosting the Summer Institute of the World Nuclear University in the coming year.

24. Mr. NGANAJINA (Angola) thanked the Agency for supporting the promotion and development of nuclear science and technology in the areas of agriculture, health and the environment. Since joining the Agency, Angola had received substantial assistance, in particular with training of staff and the elaboration of legislation and regulations. Despite the progress made, his country was still in great need of assistance and he appealed to Member States to support the development of peaceful

applications of nuclear energy in the fields of health, nutrition, industry, agriculture and the environment in his country.

25. As part of the regular technical cooperation programme for the 2005–2006 biennium, Angola was involved in two regional projects: one on strengthening of the infrastructure of regulatory bodies and one on protection of the health and safety of workers exposed to ionizing radiation. Angola had joined AFRA in 2004.

26. Inspired by the devotion of the Agency's staff, Angola had prepared new projects for the 2007-2008 biennium which it hoped would contribute to combating hunger and reducing poverty, the two main challenges facing the country. Those projects related to the use of ionizing radiation in food production and the effect on animal consumption, improvements in food production through the application of mutation and biotechnology techniques, assessment of nuclear medicine techniques, management of the most widespread form of cancer in Angola, fighting malaria, and the use of inorganic biofertilizers in the cultivation and production of maize and beans in war-affected areas.

27. The Angolan State was fully committed to those projects and was making every effort to establish an atomic energy regulatory authority in the current year. For technical reasons, the updating of legislation and regulations had been delayed but it was hoped that it would be completed in 2006.

28. Monsignor BOCCARDI (Holy See) said that disarmament was an issue close to the Holy See's heart. It was committed to pursuing general and total disarmament through the promotion of a culture of peace based on the dignity of the human person and the rule of law, and a culture of multilateralism based on dialogue and honest, consistent and responsible cooperation on the part of all members of the international community.

29. The arms race and the dramatic increase in military spending worldwide had to give way to a renewed global effort to mobilize resources in support of the objectives of peace and authentic human, social and economic development. The international community had to avoid a short-sighted approach to problems relating to national and international security, adopting instead a holistic vision, and acknowledge the benefits deriving from the correct implementation of a genuine international disarmament process.

30. It was important to recognize the link between security and development, which formed the foundation of the NPT. Absence of development, poor living standards, and lack of education and good governance often constituted a fertile breeding ground for insecurity and tensions and should be urgently addressed. It was distressing to note that, while \$900 billion were spent every year on armaments, only \$60 billion were spent on development assistance to the developing countries.

31. The Agency's technical cooperation programme recognized the essential role of nuclear science in promoting development. Its initiatives helped fight poverty and contributed to the more peaceful solution of the serious problems facing mankind. The research activities and projects carried out in recent years continued to yield good results and brought to light innovative ways of tackling problems that affected a great number of people. Higher-yield disease-resistant crops were being produced and harmful pests eradicated, and the role of radionuclides in the diagnosis and treatment of malignant diseases was particularly important. The Holy See appreciated the Agency's efforts in the area of nuclear medicine and radiotherapy to expand the availability of cancer treatment facilities in the developing world and monitor factors that affected nutrition, particularly in children in developing countries.

32. Nuclear arms control and global security went hand in hand and had to be addressed in parallel. It was important to strengthen the Agency's safeguards system, integrating verification, effective export controls, physical protection and mechanisms for dealing with non-compliance. The Director

General had recently declared that measures to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime had to be accompanied by measures to accelerate progress towards nuclear disarmament. The outcome of the 2005 NPT Review Conference had been disappointing and was indicative of a hardening of the positions of those States focusing on the slow progress achieved in the field of nuclear disarmament and those whose priority was to prevent any other State from acquiring the capability of manufacturing nuclear weapons. In the interests of international peace, security and stability, it was important to progress simultaneously on both issues. That would require all world leaders and statesmen to be open-minded, to acknowledge the legitimate development and security concerns of other nations, and to have the courage to take politically difficult measures.

33. All non-nuclear weapons States party to the NPT should support the strengthening of the Agency's verification system, including by ratifying an additional protocol. States should not use the fact that the NPT was not yet universal, or that nuclear disarmament was not progressing fast enough, as an excuse not to do so. Similarly, all nuclear-weapon States and States not party to the NPT should sign and ratify the CTBT as a clear indication that nuclear weapons would not be further developed and tested.

34. It would only be possible to increase the production of electricity from nuclear power plants to help meet the growing needs of the world population if the international community was confident that such a step could be taken without increasing the risk of nuclear proliferation.

35. Ms. HALL (Canada) said that the preceding year had been particularly difficult and challenging for the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, of which the NPT was the cornerstone. The failure of the 2005 NPT Review Conference to reach consensus on a final document, and the lack of any reference to non-proliferation and disarmament in the final document of the recent United Nations Summit, was cause for sadness. Those unfortunate developments placed even more importance on institutions like the Agency performing their roles and fulfilling their responsibilities as effectively and credibly as possible.

36. Canada called on all States party to the NPT that had not yet done so to conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol with the Agency, and urged India, Israel and Pakistan to join the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon States and to place all their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards. It welcomed India's recent expression of support for international nuclear non-proliferation goals and looked forward to learning more about how India intended to put in place national measures to advance those goals, and to working with India on the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a manner consistent with its own international commitments.

37. Her country welcomed the Board's adoption on 24 September 2005 of a resolution finding the Islamic Republic of Iran in non-compliance with its safeguards obligations, a long overdue and necessary step under the Agency's Statute. It in no way disputed Iran's right to the peaceful use of nuclear power as enshrined in Article IV of the NPT, but regarded the enjoyment of the benefits of nuclear energy as conditional on the fulfilment of obligations under Articles I, II and III of the Treaty, in particular where proliferation-sensitive activities such as enrichment and reprocessing were involved. She urged Iran to heed the Board's call to re-establish a full suspension of all enrichment-related activities, including uranium conversion, and to provide the full transparency and access sought by the Agency.

38. The announcement by the DPRK that it would abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and return to the NPT and the Agency was an important and positive step, and she called upon the DPRK to make good on those commitments. The outcome of the fourth round of the six-party talks had demonstrated again that difficult and complex non-proliferation challenges could be successfully addressed when there was the political will to do so.

39. The preceding year had seen several important initiatives aimed at strengthening the integrity of the Agency's safeguards regime. Canada welcomed the recent decisions by the Board to establish a committee to consider how to strengthen the safeguards system, and to modify the SQP, thereby correcting a weakness in the safeguards system. A strong, effective and adaptable safeguards regime should be viewed as but one element of a broader non-proliferation and international security agenda, which also included an effective international export control regime as well as investigation and interdiction of clandestine nuclear supply networks. The Director General's reflections regarding the desirability of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, and the report of the expert group on that subject, were noteworthy, as were the practical proposals announced by the United States of America at the current session. Her country looked forward to the Director General's report on the Agency's investigation of the clandestine nuclear supply network centred around Dr. A.Q. Khan.

40. Canada welcomed the Director General's announcement that the Agency had been able to reach the broader safeguards conclusion on the non-diversion of declared material and the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Canada. That conclusion was the result of significant efforts by the Agency, Canada and the Canadian nuclear industry, which should be sustained through ongoing openness and transparency. As a next step, Canada looked forward to working with the Agency on the development and implementation of a State-level integrated safeguards approach. The announcement of that conclusion underscored the seriousness with which Canada took its obligations under its comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol, and more broadly under the NPT. It expected nothing less from other States that had accepted those same commitments.

41. With respect to nuclear safety and security, Canada was pleased to be the second largest donor to the Nuclear Security Fund. The Agency's nuclear security activities were an integral part of efforts to strengthen nuclear security worldwide. The Agency's role and Canada's progress in that area had been highlighted at the March 2005 International Conference on Nuclear Security in London, and in the Agency's Nuclear Security Plan for 2006–2009. Over the preceding two years, Canada had worked closely with the Agency to implement projects under the earlier Nuclear Security Plan and looked forward to continued cooperation under the next Plan. It would like to see more nuclear security activities funded out of the Regular Budget.

42. Her country welcomed the amendment of the CPPNM and the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. It urged all States to sign and ratify both.

43. Canada had chaired the third review meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety held in April 2005. The Convention was a cornerstone of the global nuclear safety regime and its review meetings offered an important opportunity for peer review of countries' nuclear power reactor safety performance. Her country welcomed India's ratification of the Convention and its participation in the meeting. Canada had made progress in all areas covered by the Convention. The acceptance by the Contracting Parties of the voluntary use of the Agency's safety standards was a welcome step. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission had already committed itself to using international safety standards in the effective regulation of nuclear activities in Canada, and to establishing a corporate-wide quality management programme in accordance with the Agency's safety standards. An IAEA IRRT mission would be visiting Canada in the future.

44. Her country also affirmed the importance of the safe and secure management of radioactive waste and looked forward to participating in the peer review process of the second review meeting under the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management scheduled for May 2006. The Government of Canada was making good progress on that issue and a milestone decision was expected in 2006.

45. Canada welcomed the successful outcome of the 2005 International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and was continuing to work towards implementation of the Code of Conduct on that subject and the associated Guidance on the Export and Import of Radioactive Sources. She called on all Member States that had not yet done so to commit to both those guidelines as soon as possible and to their transparent and well-harmonized implementation. Canada also appreciated the Agency's efforts to address the problem of denial of shipment of medical isotopes and looked forward to continued efforts in that regard.

46. With respect to the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, one of the three pillars of the Agency's mandate, there had been much talk of a renaissance of nuclear power, a notion that had been given prominence by the international conference on nuclear power for the 21st Century held in Paris in March 2005. It was hard to envisage any viable, environmentally sound strategy to meet the increasing energy demands of the 21st century that did not include a major role for nuclear power. Nuclear power should also make a key contribution to addressing growing concerns over security of energy supplies. However, there had been recent changes in the uranium market and Canada encouraged the Agency to continue its leadership in the field of uranium resources, in particular its collaboration with the OECD/NEA on the publication of the Red Book on uranium resources, production and demand.

47. Canada intended to remain a global leader in promoting nuclear power, which supplied more than 15% of national electricity requirements. In the preceding year, two laid-up reactors had been returned to service and the decision had been made to refurbish a third. The Government of Canada, in association with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, was developing the Advanced CANDU Reactor, a new design with many significant advantages.

48. Canada had been pleased to sign the Generation IV International Forum framework R&D agreement in 2005 and continued to participate in INPRO. It was one of the few countries that was a member of both initiatives and welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the two, and the announcement by the United States that it was going to join INPRO.

49. Her country remained a major contributor to the TCF and commended the Department of Technical Cooperation on its continuing efforts to improve the technical cooperation programme. It noted in particular the changes to the CPF model and the benchmarking of technical cooperation projects against the Millennium Development Goals, as well as efforts to develop partnerships with other organizations and processes like NEPAD. It supported the introduction of NPCs and believed the TCF should remain voluntary and not be linked to changes in the Regular Budget.

50. Canada would be hosting the Women in Nuclear Global conference in May 2006, demonstrating its commitment to the role of women in the nuclear industry and the Secretariat. PACT was another important initiative it supported.

51. Mr. NG'WANDU (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed appreciation for the Agency's technical cooperation programme and the cordial relationship between Tanzania and the Agency. The country was in the process of finalizing its second CPF, on which its technical cooperation programme would be based. The CPF would also aim at implementing the recently promulgated Atomic Energy Act 2003, which established a firm foundation and framework for peaceful and safe applications of nuclear technology for socio-economic development and poverty reduction. Tanzania appreciated the CPF mechanism, as it enabled limited resources to be focused on a few areas of development of high priority to the Member State where nuclear technology available through the Agency could make a significant contribution. The CPF also stimulated better communication among all parties involved. Tanzania's new CPF would focus on human resource development as its highest priority, as that was considered to be a prerequisite for the effective utilization of nuclear technologies. Other key areas

included human health, agriculture and food security, livestock and water resources development, energy and mining, industry and construction, and environmental radioactivity management.

52. To build and maintain capacity in nuclear science and technology in LDCs, a more formal and strategic human resource development programme would be required. In that regard, Tanzania appealed to the Agency to continue and intensify its efforts to support Member States, particularly LDCs, in line with the resolutions and decisions of the forty-eighth regular session of the General Conference on capacity-building, human resource development and nuclear knowledge management.

53. His country had always followed with keen interest the Director General's informative and illuminating statements on the potential benefits of nuclear technology and atomic energy, and how nuclear technology could be used in association with conventional technologies for economic growth and poverty alleviation. Peace and development could not coexist with abject poverty nor could democracy and good governance grow amidst poverty, disease and deprivation. Poverty was a breeding ground for world insecurity and terrorism. It was time that the international community, particularly the developed world, realized that the security of the world depended on the total eradication of poverty. Unfortunately, as the World Development Report 2005 showed, poor countries were becoming poorer and developed nations were less willing to help. Tanzania called on the Agency and the international community to intensify technical cooperation programmes, in particular with LDCs, in targeted areas such as the eradication of malaria and HIV/AIDS, the improvement of food production, water resources and sanitation and the opening up of trade opportunities.

54. It was a declared policy of his country that agriculture was the backbone of the economy. Unfortunately the benefits of using nuclear techniques in agriculture and food production remained largely unknown, sometimes even to the country's scientific community and decision-makers. Nuclear techniques such as the SIT, livestock improvement through efficient monitoring and management of diseases, artificial insemination, improved nutrition through the use of isotope tracers to study fertilizer uptake, and crop improvement using mutation in plant breeding could all have a very positive and significant impact on the food security and economies of LDCs. A clear demonstration of such benefits leading to poverty alleviation was Zanzibar where the SIT had been applied to create tsetse-free areas, followed by the implementation of livestock improvement programmes. Since tsetse eradication, areas where livestock rearing had previously been impossible had increased milk production, thanks to the introduction of cross-bred animals, changing Zanzibar from an importer of milk, meat and animal food products to an exporter of those products. The challenge facing the Agency and the international community was how to create more tsetse-free areas in Africa to alleviate poverty.

55. Malaria was now the top killer disease in LDCs and water resources were a rare commodity, particularly in the African region. Such major constraints on poverty alleviation efforts made the economies of African countries weaker by the day. Unfortunately, few people knew that isotope techniques could perform wonders in controlling diseases such as malaria, cancer and HIV/AIDS, and in the management of water resources. Perhaps the Agency could develop those applications further in the interests of faster economic growth and poverty eradication in Africa.

56. With regard to the potential of nuclear power to solve energy constraints, Tanzania strongly urged the Agency and the international community to help LDCs, particularly in Africa, to build capacity for the utilization of nuclear energy for socio-economic development. An international consensus seemed to be growing regarding the control and ultimate prohibition of nuclear weapons. That should be strengthened further, along with monitoring mechanisms, to ensure nuclear safety and security. The growing challenges in the areas of proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear terrorism should not be allowed to impede the peaceful and safe uses of nuclear energy.

57. The Government of Tanzania remained committed to supporting to the Agency in its efforts to achieve its statutory objectives of accelerating the safe, peaceful and secure application of nuclear technology for sustainable socio-economic development. In conclusion, he called for increased and assured funding for the Agency's technical cooperation programme. Tanzania pledged its full share of the TCF and would honour its obligations to the Regular Budget.

58. Mr. ZNIBER (Morocco) said that the Agency could contribute, within its area of competence, to world peace and security, sustainable development and environmental protection. It should receive the financial and other resources it needed and the political and moral support of all Member States, and its integrity should be respected.

59. The international community had given the Agency a key role in the preservation of world peace and security through its verification activities. His country was disappointed at the lack of progress at the 2005 NPT Review Conference on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. The international community had to work to ensure that the next NPT Review Conference fulfilled the legitimate aspirations of all peoples to be free from the nuclear threat and to enjoy the full benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

60. Morocco supported the Agency's verification activities and the strengthening of the safeguards system, which was intended to provide the international community with the necessary assurances that nuclear material had not been diverted and nuclear installations had not been used for non-peaceful purposes. It welcomed the fact that more countries had concluded safeguards agreements and additional protocols. Morocco was to host a seminar on the additional protocol for African safeguards officials in October. The credibility of the safeguards system depended on its universal, transparent and equitable implementation, as well as on its capacity to detect illicit activities. He therefore called upon all States to accede to the NPT and the Agency's safeguards system.

61. His country had been one of the first States to ratify the NPT and conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the Agency. In 2000, it had ratified the CTBT and the CPPNM. It had also signed the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. During the 48th session of the General Conference, it had signed an additional protocol to its safeguards agreement.

62. He expressed disappointment that General Conference resolution GC(48)/RES/16 on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East had brought no substantive progress. Israel continued to refuse to join the non-proliferation regime and submit its nuclear activities and facilities to Agency safeguards, which was a serious obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and peace and security. In his country's opinion, Israel's submission of all its nuclear activities and facilities to safeguards was the main confidence-building measure needed to promote the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

63. The threat of nuclear terrorism had to be taken extremely seriously. All States should receive the assistance they needed to put in place the required nuclear security infrastructure, and should cooperate fully with the Agency in the physical protection of nuclear material and equipment, combating of illicit trafficking and prevention of misuse of nuclear energy. Morocco welcomed the amendments to the CPPNM, which would increase nuclear security and promote the safe use of nuclear material. He called upon the Secretariat to continue providing assistance to developing countries in that field.

64. Morocco was developing a national nuclear strategy, with the Agency's assistance, which aimed to improve the legislative and regulatory infrastructure required for the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy. It welcomed the activities undertaken since the preceding General Conference to develop the concept of a safety culture. Training and exchange of information played an important part in those efforts. Morocco's fourth postgraduate course in radiation protection for experts from

francophone African countries would begin in October 2005. He called upon the Secretariat to increase its financial and technical support for postgraduate training in that area.

65. The Agency's technical cooperation programme had enabled Morocco to make considerable progress in nuclear applications, particularly in human resources capacity-building, and to become a centre of excellence for training in radiation protection and nuclear medicine. His country had also participated in the international conference on nuclear power for the 21st century held in Paris and was considering introducing a nuclear energy programme to help to meet its growing energy needs.

66. Finally, he expressed regret over the slow rate of ratification of the amendment to Article VI of the Agency's Statute, which was intended to increase the representativeness and legitimacy of the Board, and called upon all Member States that had not yet done so to ratify the amendment as soon as possible.

67. Ms. STOKES (Australia) said that the Australian Foreign Minister had presided over the recent conference in New York to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT, held pursuant to Article XIV of the Treaty. The Treaty had been signed by 176 States and ratified by 125 States. The conference had strongly encouraged the 11 Annex 2 States to ratify it as soon as possible, since the Treaty could not enter into force until those ratifications were received. Australia was encouraged by the work done by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission to establish the verification regime and recognized the potential for the International Monitoring System to contribute to disaster alert efforts.

68. The Agency's work had enabled a great many countries to derive benefit from peaceful nuclear energy in a wide range of areas, from food and agriculture and human health to industry and resource management. Australia had large uranium resources and a significant scientific base in nuclear technology, including the state-of-the-art Open Pool Australian Light-water (OPAL) research reactor and associated neutron beam facilities now nearing completion in Sydney.

69. Australia was a significant contributor to the Agency's Regular Budget, paid its pledge of 2 million Australian dollars to the TCF in full, contributed significant extrabudgetary funding to the RCA and was involved in a range of bilateral nuclear cooperation activities.

70. Her country supported the Agency's initiatives aimed at increasing the numbers of women working in the Secretariat, and in nuclear affairs more generally.

71. A key factor in the successful development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was adherence to internationally accepted standards of nuclear safety and security, such as the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors. Australia looked forward to the continued development of Agency standards as the global benchmarks for nuclear safety.

72. Effective physical protection of nuclear material was a powerful counter-terrorism measure. Australia welcomed the Agency's Nuclear Security Plan for 2006–2009. A representative of her country had chaired the main committee at the diplomatic conference in July to amend the CPPNM. She called upon all States to adhere to the strengthened Convention and to apply the Agency's physical protection recommendations and other relevant standards.

73. Australia placed a high priority on the security of radioactive sources. She called upon all States to implement the revised Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. Australia was working to strengthen its own regulatory controls on radioactive sources. It was also funding a three-year project on improving radiological safety in the Asia-Pacific region, which aimed to increase the capacity to respond to aquatic environmental radiological risks and radiological emergencies.

74. Her country had been one of the first States to sign the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, had hosted the Asia-Pacific Nuclear Safeguards and Security Conference in November 2004, and had contributed to the Agency's Nuclear Security Fund and the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.

75. Australia welcomed United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, which required all States to establish controls over materials related to nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. It also supported the United States Proliferation Security Initiative which had developed quickly as a valuable means of preventing illicit flows of weapons of mass destruction and missile-related items to and from States of concern and non-State actors.

76. The world was taking a renewed interest in nuclear power, which was capable of producing baseload electricity with virtually no greenhouse gas emissions. As demand for nuclear power grew, so would the demand for uranium. Australia possessed large uranium reserves and would supply nuclear material to other States only if it was satisfied that it would not be used for any military purpose.

77. The Agency's nuclear safeguards system enabled States to demonstrate their commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to have confidence in the peaceful intentions of other States. Safeguards underpinned long-term stability in international trade in nuclear material and technology. All nuclear suppliers should ensure that a receiving State had a strong national system of nuclear security comprising Agency safeguards, physical protection, measures to combat illicit trafficking and rules and regulations for appropriate export controls.

78. The current standard for safeguards was a combination of a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol. Since an additional protocol improved the Agency's capacity to detect undeclared nuclear material and activities, it was important that it be implemented by all States. Australia intended to make the conclusion of an additional protocol a condition for the supply of Australian uranium to States with comprehensive safeguards agreements. She called upon all States to sign and ratify an additional protocol promptly. As the first State to conclude an additional protocol, Australia had gained much experience in strengthened safeguards and would continue to offer technical assistance to States that required it, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. Australia and the Agency jointly conducted regional training seminars on national safeguards, as well as a wide variety of ad hoc safeguards training activities.

79. The Board of Governors had recently revised the SQP to comprehensive safeguards agreements for States with limited holdings of nuclear material. Australia called upon all SQP States to adopt the revised protocol without delay and to conclude an additional protocol.

80. Australia welcomed the Board's decision to set up the Advisory Committee on Safeguards and Verification within the Framework of the IAEA Statute which, with the Board of Governors, was intended to ensure the Agency had access to the full range of technical, administrative, diplomatic and political measures it needed to fulfil its verification mandate. The work of the Committee would complement the important work of SAGSI.

81. A number of deeply troubling incidents had revealed the weaknesses of the non-proliferation regime. Some estimates suggested that as many as 35 to 40 countries could produce nuclear weapons if they chose to do so, and terrorist organizations were known to be interested in weapons of mass destruction. The parties to the NPT had missed a key opportunity to adopt stronger measures at the 2005 NPT Review Conference, but the nuclear non-proliferation regime established by the NPT had lost none of its value.

82. The spread of sensitive technologies and the lowering of technical and economic barriers to their acquisition increased the potential for States to flout safeguards commitments and increased the risk of illicit transfer of technology. Enrichment and reprocessing technologies could be used both for peaceful purposes and for the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. Uranium enrichment facilities required special controls and should not be situated where they might pose a security risk. States which wanted to engage in enrichment should demonstrate exemplary transparency and cooperation with Agency safeguards.

83. Approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle had assumed unprecedented relevance. Australia welcomed the Director General's initiative to commission a report by an independent expert group. That report had contributed usefully to the search for new ways to limit the spread of sensitive nuclear technology.

84. The Agency's investigative work was important for stamping out the nuclear black market and for addressing changing proliferation threats. Deliberate violations of safeguards obligations and substandard security and safety practices had to be met with a firm response. States that wilfully violated safeguards obligations potentially cut themselves off from the benefits of peaceful nuclear cooperation.

85. The claim by the DPRK in February 2005 that it possessed nuclear weapons posed a grave challenge to international security. The joint statement of principles agreed at the fourth round of the six-party talks was a welcome step by the DPRK towards its stated commitment to a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. The DPRK should grasp the opportunity to reintegrate itself into the international community by abandoning its nuclear weapons programmes in a verifiable manner.

86. The Islamic Republic of Iran was seeking to establish a full nuclear fuel cycle without convincing justification. Key questions about the nature and intentions of Iran's nuclear programme remained unanswered. Australia commended France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the European Union for their constructive contribution to resolving the issue. The Board had repeatedly called upon Iran to suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including uranium conversion. It was deeply regrettable that Iran had chosen to ignore those demands. Australia strongly urged Iran to reinstate its suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities fully and without preconditions or delay, and to comply with requirements of successive Board resolutions. She urged Iran to give the Agency the necessary access and cooperation so that the many remaining questions about Iran's nuclear programme could be resolved.

87. Ms. QUINTERO CORREA (Colombia) said that disarmament and non-proliferation were fundamental principles of Colombia's foreign policy and the country had actively participated in initiatives in that area. A multilateral approach which fully respected the rights and obligations of States and allowed for the participation of the international community as a whole was essential to such efforts, which were crucial to global peace and security. Colombia had long supported international legal instruments and institutions, was committed to the NPT and the Tlatelolco Treaty, was a member of the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone, complied with its safeguards obligations and supported multilateral initiatives aimed at freeing the world from the nuclear threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the possible terrorist use of nuclear energy. To further demonstrate its commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear technology and international security, it had signed an additional protocol in May 2005 for which the ratification process was under way.

88. The NPT and the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime were facing serious challenges, and the outcome of the 2005 NPT Review Conference was regrettable. As the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, the NPT established a collective security system

based on the three mutually indispensable pillars of disarmament, non-proliferation and the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. As a party to the Treaty, Colombia held to the position that the international community should not allow the so-called nuclear club to grow and that vertical proliferation as well as horizontal proliferation should be controlled. For the disarmament and non-proliferation regime to be effective, all States had to demonstrate their support and commitment. Colombia called for renewed efforts to strengthen the NPT and supported international efforts to achieve the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of more nuclear-weapon-free zones.

89. Her country had been a member of the Agency since 1960 and recognized the fundamental role it played in its three main areas of activity: verification, technical cooperation and nuclear safety. A balance had to be maintained between those pillars for the Agency to fulfil its statutory objectives. That was particularly important in the current situation where developing countries were facing immense challenges, in many cases exceeding their technical and financial capacities. The Agency's importance continued to grow, owing to the many possible nuclear applications in areas of fundamental importance for development. She urged the international community to support the Agency and provide the resources it needed to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

90. Colombia was benefiting from the technical cooperation programme and was grateful to the Department of Technical Cooperation for its work. It had complied fully with the central criterion and was working with the Agency to update its CPF. Furthermore, it had paid all its APCs in full and its NPCs for 2005. In the past, it had cost-shared with the Agency and was making further requests in that regard. Under the 2005–2006 programme cycle, a project on humanitarian demining activities was being implemented in Colombia. Work was also currently under way to reopen and start up the only research reactor in Colombia.

91. She thanked the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security for the support it was giving to the regional initiative relating to the safety and use of research reactors in Latin America and the Caribbean, in which Colombia was taking an active part. An important regional workshop on that subject had been held in Lima in August 2005. Colombia welcomed all activities related to strengthening of regional cooperation in the area of nuclear knowledge.

92. Her country also welcomed the PACT initiative which it fully supported.

93. Project concepts were being formulated for the 2007–2008 biennium. The Colombian authorities welcomed the new format for project submission, which should facilitate evaluation of compliance with the central criterion and expedite the project evaluation process. They also appreciated the proposed Programme Cycle Management Framework.

94. At regional level, ARCAL had promoted and strengthened cooperation between developing countries during the 21 years it had been in existence. She thanked the Agency for the support it gave to ARCAL, and all the donors that had provided financial support to its projects and activities, and expressed the hope that that collaboration would continue. She also welcomed the strategic alliance between ARCAL and the Agency which would be implemented through an action plan to be drawn up in the coming months.

95. Transport of radioactive waste was issue of special importance for Colombia, in particular international cooperation and exchange of information between shippers and coastal States, in which areas the Agency played a significant role. It was important to maintain dialogue and consultations to achieve better mutual understanding, build trust and improve communications with respect to the safe maritime transport of radioactive waste. At the same time, a binding legal instrument was needed to which all coastal and shipping States adhered. She emphasized the importance of the International

Action Plan for the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material and the 2005 Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material and stressed that they should be kept up to date. The work carried out by INLEX should continue.

96. The safety and security of radioactive sources was a priority. Colombia shared the concerns over safety and believed that mechanisms, national standards and international cooperation arrangements should be strengthened to reduce the risks of using radioactive sources and the dangers of illicit trafficking in radioactive material and its potential terrorist use. Colombia had recently joined the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. It had also been participating in the programme on illicit trafficking in nuclear material and radioactive sources since 2004 and was concerned over the existence of a network for the illicit trafficking in radioactive material, equipment and components. The Agency should continue its investigations to discover the membership and structure of that network, with the support of all Member States.

97. The threat of proliferation and terrorism required a joint effort at all levels. Any collective security system should not only be based on respect for the rights of all States and their legal equality, but should also take into account the needs of the developing world. That, together with a firm commitment to disarmament, would help build a future free from nuclear threat where the legitimate development aspirations of the majority of countries would be fulfilled.

Ms. Wijewardane (Sri Lanka), Vice-President, took the Chair.

98. Mr. AAS (Norway) said that the failure of the 2005 NPT Review Conference and the lack of any agreement on disarmament and non-proliferation issues at the United Nations World Summit had shaken the foundations of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The hard-won consensus on the balance between non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy — the three pillars on which the NPT was based — was in danger of unravelling, which was particularly unfortunate in view of the pressing security challenges, such as the proliferation of nuclear weapons to new States and groups, illicit trafficking in nuclear technology, the existence of a large amount of unsecured nuclear material, the growing fear that nuclear weapons might be given a more prominent and additional role in security policies, and insufficient progress in nuclear disarmament. Norway, together with six other countries from different regions of the world, had tabled texts for the Summit outcome document, an initiative which had been generally well received. Regrettably, the proposal had not commanded the required consensus. Norway would take up the challenge issued by the United Nations Secretary-General and would continue to seek consensus and concrete results together with Australia, Chile, Indonesia, Romania, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and all the other countries that had supported its efforts. A new global consensus on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation needed to be fostered and the Agency needed to be a part of that process.

99. Compliance with arms control treaties was vital for collective security. Difficult compliance matters needed to be dealt with in a credible manner. The Agency had a key role in verifying that States party to the NPT honoured their non-proliferation obligations.

100. Since October 2003, good progress had been made in correcting the breaches of Iran's obligations under its safeguards agreement. However, in view of its history of concealment and disinformation, there remained a confidence deficit that hampered a political solution. He therefore urged Iran to heed the Agency's plea for transparency measures that went beyond the formal requirements of the additional protocol in order to bring the investigations to a conclusion as soon as possible. It was up to Iran to allow diplomacy to do its job in removing justified concerns about its nuclear programme. Steps that could escalate the situation needed to be avoided. It should be in the interest of all parties to pave the way for resumption of negotiations.

101. Norway welcomed the agreement reached in the six-party talks concerning the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It expected all parties to live up to their commitments and take coordinated steps in line with the principle of commitment for commitment, action for action, with the aim of implementing the 1992 Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

102. The Agency's verification programme was essential for maintaining the confidence needed for the NPT to be credible and to function well. The additional protocol would give the Agency a broader basis on which to draw conclusions regarding safeguards. It was encouraging that an increasing number of countries were concluding additional protocols, but progress was too slow and it was important to work towards universal implementation. The General Conference should state that the comprehensive safeguards together with the additional protocol should be considered the verification standard and a condition for taking part in peaceful nuclear cooperation.

103. His country welcomed the establishment of the new Advisory Committee on Safeguards and Verification within the Framework of the IAEA Statute and was ready to share its own experience of integrated safeguards arrangements with the Agency. It encouraged the Agency to continue and expand its technical support to Member States in implementing Agency safeguards and to continue to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of the verification programme. Norway would promote further steps to enhance the regime's effectiveness.

104. Norway welcomed additional voluntary-offer arrangements by the nuclear-weapon States for improved protection and control of nuclear material. It also urged the nuclear-weapon States to provide greater security and transparency with respect to their fissile material holdings, which would be an important confidence-building measure, would serve non-proliferation efforts and would contribute substantially to disarmament efforts.

105. Full implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 was vital in order to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring nuclear material and technology. He called upon all States to adopt and enforce effective laws prohibiting non-State actors from pursuing activities related to weapons of mass destruction. With its substantial base of technical competence and information, the Agency was well positioned to assist States in fulfilling the obligations set out in resolution 1540. Norway would contribute to that end and explore possible cooperation with the Agency. As the current Chair of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, Norway was satisfied that recognition of the Group's control measures as an international benchmark had grown. Norway had signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and considered it an important instrument which should enter into force as soon as possible.

106. A proliferation-resistant nuclear fuel cycle was in the interest of all States and would favour the right to benefit from nuclear energy and technology enshrined in the NPT. Norway welcomed the recommendations of the expert group on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, which should inspire efforts to elaborate a mechanism whereby States were assured supplies of nuclear fuel provided they refrained from developing their capacity to enrich uranium or reprocess plutonium. It could take time to achieve that. In the meantime, he called for a moratorium on the construction of facilities incorporating sensitive technologies.

107. Curbing the use of HEU was another measure which could reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation. A long-term target should therefore be set for reaching agreement on prohibition of civilian uses. Member States should commit themselves to converting civilian nuclear installations from HEU to LEU as soon as was technically feasible and the Agency should support that process. Norway would encourage the Agency to organize a seminar on the technical challenges. It was equally important to implement international initiatives currently under way, such as the G8 Global Partnership and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. All Member States should increase the level of

transparency for HEU holdings and the Agency should develop guidelines for the management of HEU in the civilian sector along the lines of those for reporting plutonium.

108. The Agency had a clear mandate in relation to a wide range of nuclear activities. International Agency standards and norms relating to nuclear safety and security were actively utilized. Norway welcomed in particular the amendments to the CPPNM agreed on in July 2005. Global adherence to the strengthened Convention should now be the goal. Ever since it had joined the G8 Global Partnership, the security of nuclear installations and nuclear materials had been a core element of Norway's cooperation efforts. It would continue to play a leading role in efforts to improve international cooperation to ensure that adequate standard tools and mechanisms for responding to nuclear and radiological emergencies were in place, and would promote full implementation of the international action plan for strengthening the international emergency preparedness and response system. Adequate funding for the action plan and the allocation of resources through the Regular Budget were essential. His country also supported efforts to examine and improve international regulations relating to maritime transport and dialogue between shipping and coastal States. It expected concrete and speedy results in the coming year from INLEX.

109. Peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology should not be allowed to harm the environment and the international community should intensify its efforts to protect the environment against the harmful effects of radiation. The 2nd International Conference on Radioactivity in the Environment, to be held in the coming week, should produce a concrete outcome.

110. Norway welcomed the increased support for and adherence to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the positive outcome of the third review meeting held in April. The forthcoming meeting in December on the application of the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors should contribute to enhanced focus on research reactor safety and international transparency.

111. Good national control of radioactive sources was one of the most important tools for preventing incidents and accidents, including malicious uses. The Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources was an important tool to achieve that end. All countries should adopt the standards set by the Code and supply the Agency with sufficient resources to assist countries in implementing it.

112. Everyone should contribute to strengthening the Agency's capacity, and provide it with the necessary resources. Norway also encouraged the Secretariat to look into ways of recruiting more women.

113. The proliferation challenges facing the world were serious. Disappointment with the NPT Review Conference and the World Summit had to be overcome and efforts to forge a new global non-proliferation consensus had to become even more determined. A strong and credible Agency was vital to achieve that.

114. Mr. MOHAMAD (Malaysia) said it was regrettable that the 2005 NPT Review Conference had been unable to adopt a final consensus document. The NPT regime and its review process should be strengthened and universalized. If nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty did not take steps to dismantle and eliminate nuclear weapons, the relevance of the NPT would be called into question. The indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995 had not been a carte blanche for the nuclear-weapon States to retain nuclear weapons indefinitely. Non-proliferation activities would not succeed without disarmament. Furthermore, the nuclear-weapon States should not ignore nuclear arsenals in States not party to the NPT and such States should be brought into the regime for it to become truly universal.

115. Speaking on behalf of NAM, he noted that the Board had recognized that the SQP in its present form constituted a weakness in the safeguards system and had requested the Agency to assist SQP

States in making a smooth transition to new arrangements by organizing comprehensive training programmes and providing technical assistance for capacity building, whatever option was chosen on how to proceed.

116. NAM recognized the inalienable right of all States to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes. While fully supporting efforts to ensure the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, it maintained that non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology should be addressed in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner. A clear distinction had to be made between Member States' legal obligations pursuant to their safeguards agreements and voluntary commitments. Voluntary commitments could not be turned into legal safeguards obligations and Member States should not be penalized for not adhering to their voluntary commitments.

117. The Agency was the sole competent authority for verification and NAM had full confidence in its professionalism and impartiality. All safeguards and verification issues, including those relating to Iran, should be resolved within the framework of the Agency based on technical grounds. The Agency had the legal authority to pursue verification of possible nuclear weapons, but any request for additional legal authority should be negotiated by Member States. It was therefore important to promote and strengthen the multilateral process.

118. Speaking on behalf of Malaysia, he said that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would enhance global and regional peace and security, strengthen the non-proliferation regime and contribute to nuclear disarmament. He reaffirmed the need for the prompt establishment of such a zone in the region, in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Every nuclear-weapon-free zone was a critical piece of what would eventually become a nuclear-weapon-free world. Malaysia had played an important role in establishing the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone through the Bangkok Treaty in 1995 and remained concerned that the majority of nuclear-weapon States had been unwilling to sign the Protocol to that Treaty.

119. His country remained fully committed to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as a step towards general and complete nuclear disarmament, and fully condemned all acts of terrorism, including nuclear terrorism, regardless of the motivation of perpetrators. In that spirit, it had joined other States in signing the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and had expressed its intention to conclude an additional protocol. Given the link between nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear terrorism, it was reviewing and strengthening its national export control laws and regulations.

120. The Director General had advocated multilateral approaches to the front and back ends of the nuclear fuel cycle as a means of addressing current proliferation and security challenges arising from proliferation-sensitive fuel cycle operations. Any such multilateral approach should not adversely affect the fundamental inalienable right of NPT State Parties to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes, either by imposing a mandatory permanent suspension of any part of that right as a pre-condition for the participation by any State Party in a multilateral approach, or otherwise. However, a temporary voluntary waiver for the duration of a multilateral arrangement, subject to a continued assurance of supply and with appropriate guarantees, including guaranteed financial and other relevant compensation for failure to supply for reasons other than a violation or breach of nuclear non-proliferation commitments, could contribute to the larger objective of strengthening the non-proliferation regime.

121. Non-politicized, rationalized nuclear non-proliferation export control regimes needed to be established independently from the NPT for multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle to succeed. Any denial of nuclear export should be based solely on a breach of non-proliferation

commitments by the importing State verified by the Agency. Given the proliferation significance of nuclear fuel cycle technology, his country could also support the requirement to sign and implement fully an additional protocol as a condition to participate in such multilateral arrangements.

122. Preferential treatment in the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology should be given to all developing non-nuclear-weapon States that had consistently honoured their non-proliferation commitment under the NPT as a measure to restore confidence in the Treaty, particularly in the context of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. Malaysia was concerned over the partnership between an NPT nuclear-weapon State and a non-NPT State with nuclear capability which implied that the NPT State would work to achieve full civil nuclear energy cooperation with the non-NPT State as the latter realized its goals of promoting nuclear power and achieving energy security. In addition, it had been reported that the NPT State would adjust its laws and policies and work to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with the non-NPT State, including, but not limited to, expeditious consideration of nuclear fuel supplies for safeguarded nuclear reactors.

123. Malaysia had hosted the Regional Meeting of Policy Makers on Overcoming Barriers to the Sustainability of National Institutions, which had been held under the framework of a regional project on support towards self-reliance and sustainability of national nuclear institutions. That regional project had been initiated during the 2001–2002 cycle of the technical cooperation programme as a response to the recommendations of a regional Agency seminar on strategies and approaches towards self-reliance and sustainability of national nuclear institutions held in Kuala Lumpur in 2000.

124. His country hoped that a long-term agreement could be reached on the postgraduate courses in radiation protection that were being hosted by Malaysia and other Member States, in view of the significant benefits from those courses and the substantial investments made thus far by host States. That would be in line with the Agency's long-term strategy for sustainability of training and education in all Member States.

125. Mr. SANZ OLIVA (Spain) said that issues relating to nuclear non-proliferation were becoming the subject of growing concern within the international community and the Agency's safeguards system had accordingly become a focus of international attention. The Agency and the international community could best respond to the threat of nuclear proliferation by pressing for the early universalization of additional protocols, which should become the new standard of the Agency's safeguards system. Although Spain welcomed the increase in the number of Member States with additional protocols in force, it was concerned at the fact that, eight years after adoption of the Model Additional Protocol, 16 States with significant nuclear activities had still not concluded an additional protocol.

126. Since the entry into force of the European Union's additional protocol in 2004, Spain had, through the European Commission, been punctually providing the Agency with all relevant information regarding its nuclear activities and the Department of Safeguards knew that it could count on the full cooperation of the Spanish authorities.

127. His country welcomed the Director General's efforts in the verification field and was following with interest the initiative relating to possible multilateral approaches to the front and back ends of the nuclear fuel cycle, although it appreciated that account would have to be taken of both the technical and the economic implications.

128. With regard to the security of nuclear material and facilities and high-activity radiation sources, his country greatly appreciated the work being done by the Agency in that field and particularly welcomed the adoption by consensus in July of amendments which would broaden the scope of the

CPPNM. It hoped that all countries party to the CPPNM would do their utmost to ensure that those amendments entered into force soon. Spain had already initiated its ratification procedure.

129. In the nuclear safety and radiation protection field, Spain was looking forward to cooperating still more closely with the Secretariat. It welcomed the progress made by the Secretariat in preparing safety standards and promoting their application with a view to the establishment of an internationally harmonized safety regime.

130. His country had participated in the third review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and considered the meeting to have been a success. It commended the work done by the Secretariat in that connection. At the same time, in the interests of the Convention's sustainability it would like the Secretariat to draw on the lessons learned from the meeting when planning future activities relating to the Convention. It attached great importance to all of the services offered by the Agency in the field of nuclear safety and would, in particular, like the Secretariat to increase the number of IRRT missions organized each year, providing Member States regularly with information about them and coordinating them with activities relating to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. Earlier that year, the Spanish authorities had requested the Secretariat to organize an IRRT mission to Spain and it was expected that the mission would take place in 2007.

131. As had been emphasized by INSAG, safety culture was of great importance for the safety of nuclear facilities. Spain would therefore like the Secretariat to continue working on the development of methods for promoting safety culture in the management of nuclear facilities, a field in which the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security had assisted Spain greatly during 2005.

132. His country attached great importance to INES, which its Nuclear Safety Council had been using since 1990. It had been participating since 2002 in a study by the INES Advisory Committee on the feasibility of expanding the scope of INES to cover radiological and transport events. It welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat to promote the use of a single event scale by all Member States.

133. The Secretariat was to be commended on the results of the International Symposium on Disposal of Low Activity Radioactive Waste that had been held in Cordoba, Spain, in December 2004 with the extensive involvement of Spain's Nuclear Safety Council and of ENRESA, Spain's national radioactive waste management company. Among the issues considered in Cordoba had been the problems associated with disused radiation sources, the existing large volumes of very low-level radioactive waste, and radioactive waste from the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. The results of the symposium would serve as the point of departure for the International Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Disposal due to take place in Tokyo at the beginning of October 2005.

134. The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was the most valuable instrument available to the international community in its efforts to achieve the highest possible levels of safety in the management of radioactive waste and worldwide harmonization in the area of low-level radioactive waste disposal. Spain would like to see many more countries acceding to the Convention and was preparing a national report for presentation at the second review meeting of the Contracting Parties, which was due to take place in Vienna in 2006.

135. With respect to the Agency's activities relating to radiation safety, including radiation safety infrastructures, education and training, and knowledge management, Spain had made an extrabudgetary contribution of €380 000 through its Nuclear Safety Council in support of an Ibero-American radiation safety project. Within the framework of that project, which was an initiative of the Ibero-American Forum of Nuclear Regulators, experts from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Spain were working with the Agency's Secretariat on the development of a prototype network for

the management of radiation safety knowledge in the Ibero-American region. Spain intended to continue supporting the project through such extrabudgetary contributions in the years ahead.

136. In the area of technical cooperation, his country was pleased with the current financial implementation rate. It was also pleased with the encouraging rate of attainment situation which it had helped bring about as one of the eight largest contributors to the TCF since 2003. In 2005 it had completed the process of gradually bringing its contributions to the TCF fully into line with its TCF target share.

137. While welcoming the improvements which had been made in the area of technical cooperation programme management with a view to optimizing use of the resources available for technical cooperation, his country felt that equipment procurement should decrease relative to training.

138. Besides contributing to the TCF, Spain was supporting the Agency's technical cooperation activities by receiving fellows and scientific visitors and providing experts for Agency-organized missions, in particular through CIEMAT, its Research Centre for Energy, Environment and Technology, which was already supporting various ARCAL projects and was planning to support projects also in countries in the Mediterranean region.

139. His country was participating very actively in INPRO and would like to see further countries joining that project. At the same time, it would also like to see maximum use being made of the opportunities for coordinating INPRO activities with activities under way within the framework of similar initiatives.

140. A decision had finally been taken regarding the siting of ITER, which was to be built at Cadarache in France. For its part, Spain would host the European legal entity responsible for coordinating European participation in the ITER project, which it would do its utmost to support.

141. During 2004, Spain's nine power reactors had accounted for 23.2% of the electricity generated in the country. Given the commitments entered into by Spain with regard to environmental protection, the country's growing demand for electricity was creating a major challenge, accentuated by the tensions affecting the world energy market. Consequently, although the current governmental focus was on increasing the use of renewable forms of energy and on drastically improving efficiency in the use of energy, in the long run, since it had very little in the way of indigenous conventional energy sources, Spain would need nuclear power to reduce its dependence on foreign energy supplies.

142. The Spanish Government had decided to review in the near future Spain's general radioactive waste plan, inter alia in view of the fact that the José Cabrera nuclear power plant was to cease operating in April 2006, after which there would be a need for a facility for the temporary storage of its spent fuel, and in view of the envisaged construction of a facility for the storage of very low-level radioactive waste at the El Cabril site.

143. As regards the decommissioning of the Vandellós 1 nuclear power plant, a large part of the site had been released following level 2 dismantling. The reactor pressure vessel had been sealed off and would be dismantled only after the radioactivity level had declined significantly in 25 years' time. On the site, Spain's radioactive waste management company, ENRESA, had established a centre for R&D in areas such as dismantling, decontamination and volume reduction. The centre had already hosted an Agency-organized course on dismantling for participants from Central Europe. In March 2005, ENRESA and the Agency had signed a memorandum of understanding on joint activities in the area of nuclear facility decommissioning. In addition, under an earlier memorandum of understanding on support for Agency technical cooperation projects in the Ibero-American region, ENRESA was involved in the planning of radioactive waste management projects to be implemented in various

Ibero-American countries and was participating in a project on the management of institutional waste in Brazil.

144. Spain attached great importance to the Agency's verification activities, its efforts to promote various nuclear applications in developing countries and its work on nuclear safety worldwide. It would continue supporting the Agency in all three areas.

145. Ms. GARCÍA DE PÉREZ (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, as a developing country, Venezuela accorded special importance to technical cooperation with the Agency, since development and technological innovation were key to socio-economic development. A series of projects were being implemented in the 2005–2006 cycle and two large projects were being considered for the 2007–2008 cycle.

146. In the health sector, which had been of great concern to her country, a programme for early diagnosis of breast cancer was being successfully implemented, optimizing diagnostic imaging techniques. An agreement with Argentina was planned, in line with the Agency's central criterion for cooperation and the principle of TCDC. Another important project related to sustainable water resources management in Lake Maracaibo and Cumana.

147. There was regional cooperation within the Caribbean subregion, with an emphasis on less developed countries such as Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Venezuela was also participating in various regional projects under ARCAL.

148. Venezuela was revising its legislation and national regulations on the control of radiation sources in order to make them compatible with international standards and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. Agreements not yet signed or ratified were also being studied with a view to joining them soon.

149. Though her country had not yet developed nuclear energy, the Government had submitted a proposal to the Agency for work, within the context of a regional project, on energy planning and the feasibility of incorporating nuclear power.

150. Venezuela would be hosting a regional workshop in October on the management of technical cooperation projects, to be attended by seven countries from the region. It was continuing to implement cooperation projects through fellowships, scientific visits, expert missions and equipment purchases, as well as the training of professionals from other Member States through training courses, such as the one on isotope hydrology currently under way at the University of the Andes.

151. As a demonstration of the importance her country accorded to the nuclear field, the General Directorate for Atomic Energy had recently been set up to regulate nuclear activities. A programme was also being developed to respond to the challenges posed by the increase in peaceful uses of atomic energy. Significant resources were being invested to train qualified personnel to join the regulatory authority.

152. She thanked the Agency and its staff for the progress that had been made in implementing new projects. It was for that reason that Venezuela had striven to meet its financial obligations to the Agency, paying in full its NPCs and normalizing its payments to the TCF and the Regular Budget.

153. In the field of safety and security, her country had begun to prepare a plan which would require support from the Agency and donor countries to solve the problem of radioactive waste, strengthening of regulatory capacity, radiological emergencies and improvement of the radioactive materials registry.

154. Venezuela shared other delegations' concern over the failure to reach a consensus at the NPT Review Conference in New York. Her country had demonstrated its love of peace and its faithful fulfilment of its international obligations. It was proud to belong to a region free of nuclear weapons by unanimous decision of all the countries therein and had signed and acceded to all of the agreements aimed at achieving that end.

155. In the preceding week, the Board of Governors had adopted by a majority vote a resolution on the implementation of safeguards in Iran, declaring that country to be in non-compliance with its obligations. Venezuela believed that the problem needed to be analysed from a more objective perspective on the basis of the Director General's report. Consensus on the resolution could perhaps have been reached by including language which reflected objectively the need for dialogue, ongoing negotiations and the systematic intervention of Agency safeguards inspectors. She thanked the three European countries for all their efforts in that regard and their willingness to contribute to a dialogue to clarify the subject and urged them to spare no effort to find a solution within the Agency.

156. It was time to build a world at peace. The NPT provided the opportunity to do so, aided by the Agency's years of experience. All countries should make an equal commitment to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to promote disarmament and to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

157. Thus, Venezuela supported the NPT and all regulations and measures stemming from it. It commended the Agency and the Secretariat for its efforts in the field of international cooperation. It supported the Agency's efforts to guarantee the inalienable right of all members of the international community to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It rejected unilateral and discriminatory attitudes regarding the nuclear threat. It remained firmly convinced that multilateralism and international cooperation needed to be strengthened in order to make progress towards complete disarmament. It firmly supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen the three fundamental pillars of its activities. It supported all steps the Agency was taking to eliminate the threat posed by nuclear arsenals, the proliferation of nuclear weapons and possible diversion of radioactive material for such ends. It welcomed the return of the DPRK to the NPT and congratulated those who had made it possible, especially the People's Republic of China. It urged all nuclear-weapon States to begin or continue the process of disarmament and, finally, it urged those States that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the NPT.

158. Ms. BRIDGE (New Zealand) said that the non-proliferation regime was facing unprecedented challenges. Global security was a global concern. It was therefore imperative that the international community work together to agree on and coordinate effective responses to those challenges. The Agency had an increasingly vital role in that collective response, working with Member States to safeguard and secure nuclear material for exclusively peaceful purposes. The risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists, or States not fully complying with international treaties, was a priority issue. The threat of nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts involving nuclear material remained real, transnational and multifaceted. New Zealand therefore welcomed the Nuclear Security Plan for 2006–2009 and had demonstrated its support for that area of the Agency's work by contributing to the Nuclear Security Fund each year since it had been established, including a contribution of NZ \$25 000 for 2005. It welcomed the successful outcome of the conference to amend the CPPNM in July 2005. The amendments that had been adopted broadened the scope of the Convention and made it more effective in guarding against terrorist attacks on nuclear material.

159. Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons through the implementation of NPT safeguards was a fundamental pillar of the Agency's work. New Zealand had been disappointed at the lack of an outcome at the 2005 NPT Review Conference. The disarmament commitment given by the nuclear-weapon States, and reaffirmed unequivocally at the 2000 NPT Review Conference had to be

honoured, just as the non-proliferation objectives of the Treaty had to be adhered to. One of the 13 practical steps to disarmament agreed that the 2000 NPT Review Conference had been the early entry into force of the CTBT. It was disappointing that that had yet to be achieved.

160. It had been an additional disappointment that the United Nations Summit outcome document had failed to include a reference to disarmament and non-proliferation, despite shared concerns in that regard. As a result, the road ahead for proponents of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament would be challenging. It was therefore important that all States returned to the disarmament and non-proliferation regime with renewed vigour.

161. One of the Agency's key roles was verifying that nuclear material was not being diverted from peaceful uses. The Director General should have the necessary tools to fulfil that mandate, including the additional protocol. The additional protocol was the contemporary verification standard and should be a condition of nuclear supply. She urged those States that had not yet done so to conclude an additional protocol as soon as possible. New Zealand welcomed both the Board's decision to modify SQPs in order to address the weakness identified in the safeguards system, and the Agency's offer of assistance to SQP States with the implementation of that decision.

162. Her country was concerned that the Agency had been unable to reach any conclusions regarding the DPRK's nuclear activities. The DPRK's withdrawal from the NPT in 2003, and its declaration that it possessed nuclear weapons, had created a serious challenge to the non-proliferation regime and the stability and security of the Asia-Pacific region. She welcomed the agreement that had been reached at the six-party talks in Beijing, in particular the DPRK's commitment to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and to return to the NPT and Agency safeguards at an early date. She encouraged all parties to work to ensure that the opportunity created by those talks would produce an enduring and comprehensive outcome.

163. New Zealand recognized Iran's right, under Article IV of the NPT, to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with Article II. At the same time, it supported the Board's resolutions that had called on Iran to suspend enrichment-related and reprocessing activities as a voluntary confidence-building measure, which was essential to addressing outstanding questions relating to Iran's nuclear programme. Iran needed to demonstrate additional transparency, beyond its legal obligations, in order to assist the verification of its nuclear programme and address the confidence deficit. The Board's resolution of 24 September 2005 had given Iran more time before its non-compliance was reported to the Security Council. She called on Iran to cooperate with the Agency in a fully transparent manner, to respect all its commitments, and to continue negotiations on long-term arrangements.

164. Nuclear safety was another important pillar of the Agency's work. New Zealand was committed to the principles and objectives of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.

165. The safety of transport of radioactive material was of considerable importance to her country. Large shipments of spent fuel and radioactive waste were shipped past New Zealand and it was essential that adequate safety measures were in place to prevent accidents or incidents, or to protect the population of New Zealand should such an event occur. In that regard, she welcomed the TranSAS mission to Japan scheduled for December 2005. Since shipments past New Zealand were primarily between Japan and Europe, her country welcomed Japan's willingness to accept that mission.

166. At the 2005 United Nations Summit, leaders had agreed that States should maintain dialogue and consultations, in particular under the auspices of the Agency and the International Maritime Organization with the aim of improving mutual understanding, confidence building, and enhanced communications in relation to the safe maritime transport of radioactive material. In that connection,

progress had been made on two issues of particular concern. INLEX had been working on clarifying the application and scope of the existing liability regime and any serious gaps, and her country looked forward to the continuation of its work. Countries in the region remained concerned about the possibility of an incident that could cause serious environmental damage and, even without an actual release of radiation, significant economic loss. It was important that innocent victims, such as New Zealand or other coastal States with no nuclear industries, were not left to bear any such loss. Any effective global liability regime should therefore cover the provision of adequate compensation in such a situation.

167. It was also important, given the potential harm that might be sustained should there be an incident involving a vessel carrying radioactive material, that coastal States were provided with adequate advance information concerning such shipments. Such information exchange could contribute toward the safety of such shipments and the effectiveness and timeliness of any response to an incident. Informal discussions had been held between coastal States and shipping States in July 2005, with Agency involvement, to build confidence and a better understanding of each other's concerns, and to explore how those communication issues could be taken forward and procedures for the exchange of information improved. It had been agreed that those discussions would continue and she expressed the hope that States might work towards an understanding of future practice which met the concerns of both sides.

168. As a strong supporter of the NPT, New Zealand supported the principle that States should have access to nuclear technology for peaceful uses, in conformity with Article II of the Treaty, in particular the many civilian applications not related to nuclear power generation which could enhance the lives of millions of people worldwide. New Zealand had rejected the use of nuclear power and did not believe that nuclear power was compatible with the concept of sustainable development, given the long-term financial and ecological costs and the problems associated with the disposal of nuclear waste. It was aware of its commitment under the Agency's Statute to support all pillars of the Agency's mandate. However, there was currently no mechanism available to ensure that any contribution to the Agency's main technical cooperation programme did not go towards projects which promoted the use of nuclear power as an energy option. Therefore New Zealand had contributed instead to specific extrabudgetary technical cooperation projects. Building on its first-time contribution to the Agency's technical cooperation activities in support of malaria research in 2004, New Zealand had made a contribution to PACT in 2005. That project would help developing countries gain access to radiotherapy equipment and address all aspects of cancer control.

169. Mr. NIEWODNICZAŃSKI (Poland) expressed regret that the States party to the NPT had been unable to agree on how to strengthen implementation of the Treaty at the recent NPT Review Conference in New York. That lack of substantive agreement was even more disappointing given the urgent challenges the world was facing. An international and universal nuclear non-proliferation regime supported by a strong international safeguards system that required States to account for and control nuclear material was an essential basis for universal efforts to pursue nuclear disarmament and maintain collective security. The Agency was an integral part of that system, playing a vital role in verifying non-proliferation commitments. The universal adoption and implementation of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols was a prerequisite for a credible and effective safeguards system. Poland had nearly completed ratification of the trilateral safeguards agreement and additional protocol it had been obliged to conclude on its accession to the European Union, replacing the former bilateral agreement and protocol.

170. His country was proud to have contributed to the adoption by the Board in September of the Director General's proposals for strengthening safeguards implementation in States with SQPs and he called upon all States concerned to conduct exchanges of letters with the Agency as soon as possible to implement that decision.

171. Poland was committed to the entry into force of the CTBT, had ratified the Treaty and was confident that the regular conferences to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty would contribute to the completion of that process.

172. Challenges to the global security environment had continued to dominate the international agenda over the preceding year. In seeking ways to improve safety and security, it was imperative that the international community present a united front and work together for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The Agency constituted a central point in the chain of collective response, working with Member States to safeguard and secure nuclear material for exclusively peaceful purposes and making a significant contribution to efforts to guard against nuclear terrorism. One such contribution had been the adoption of the amendment to the CPPNM in July, widening the scope of the Convention and making it more universal. Poland had been one of 25 co-authors of the basic proposal prepared for the conference and it had already started the internal ratification procedure for the amendment. It hoped that other States party to the Convention had done the same. It had also supported the adoption by the United Nations of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and had signed it in New York in the middle of September. Another activity which underlined the need to maintain the highest safety and security conditions for high-risk nuclear and other radioactive material was the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. Within the framework of that initiative, Poland would try to replace the fuel in its nuclear research reactor with low-enriched fuel.

173. A key nuclear security initiative was the Nuclear Security Fund, which had been established to expand and build upon the Agency's activities to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism. He was glad to report that Poland, in addition to its in-kind contribution to support the organization of the national training course for Polish border guards and customs officers, had recently made a financial contribution to the Fund. He thanked the Agency for its assistance with the above-mentioned course.

174. Nuclear security was closely linked to nuclear safety. International legal instruments like the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management were key components of the global nuclear safety regime. Poland, a Contracting Party to all the international legal instruments developed under the auspices of the Agency in that field, was fully convinced of their importance and their essential role in keeping nuclear facilities and materials safe and secure. The review mechanisms of both Conventions constituted an essential factor mobilizing and stimulating progress in the field of nuclear safety in the world. His country also strongly supported the non-binding executive tools developed by the Agency to strengthen nuclear and radiation safety, such as internationally agreed safety standards, action plans and codes of conduct, in particular the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors. In August, Poland had officially informed the Agency of its full support for and its decision to follow the provisions contained in the first-mentioned Code and the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. It also appreciated the progress made on the safety of transport of radioactive material and welcomed the strengthening of international response to nuclear and radiological emergencies. The Agency's role in education and training initiatives in that area also could not be ignored.

175. A high level of nuclear security and nuclear and radiation safety was being achieved not only on the basis of properly implemented international treaties and conventions and well-established governmental structures and competent national regulatory bodies, but also via regional cooperation in the field. That very week, on behalf of the Polish Government, he had signed an agreement with the Czech Republic on early notification of a nuclear accident and on cooperation in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection. Similar high-level intergovernmental agreements had been signed and implemented with Poland's other neighbours, apart from Germany, thus creating an important safety and cooperation system in the region which enhanced significantly both the safety and the

confidence of those countries' populations with regard to nuclear power and other nuclear technologies.

176. The role of the Agency in ensuring global nuclear peace could not be overestimated. However, the Agency had traditionally been a source of new ideas and initiatives in various applications of nuclear technology in such areas as medicine, human nutrition, agriculture or hydrology, and even in pure science. He expressed the hope that the Agency would pursue its activities in that field and further develop that part of its mission, which was so essential especially for less developed Member States.

177. The ageing of the workforce in the nuclear sector was a serious concern for many Member States, including countries without nuclear power like Poland. However, the development of nuclear power was under consideration in Poland. It therefore found all activities relating to nuclear knowledge management, whether carried out or coordinated by the Agency, worth supporting. Sharing experience among Member States and establishing regional programmes played an essential role. He commended the Agency for its plans in that area, which consisted of expanding educational network and training opportunities, providing more comprehensive guidance to Member States on the establishment of nuclear knowledge management programmes and increasing the scope and accessibility of information provided.

178. Particularly thanks to regional cooperation programmes, of which the European region provided a good and very successful example, the Agency had made considerable progress toward increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of its technical cooperation programme, which had established itself as a well-functioning mechanism for the transfer of nuclear technology to developing Member States. Poland, like other new members of the European Union, was still very interested in continuing its participation in that programme, both at national and regional level. It had signed a CPF in June. That tool, and the new Programme Cycle Management Framework, should facilitate programme planning and implementation. He thanked the Agency and the Russian Federation for providing Poland with the nuclear fuel for its research reactor. His country was aware of the importance of the TCF and pledged and paid its contribution every year on time and in full.

179. Finally, he underscored the importance for the Agency's proper functioning of Member States ratifying the amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute. Poland had already done so.

180. Mr. MOREJÓN-ALMEIDA (Ecuador) said that his country shared the general perception of the Agency's important role in the control of nuclear material and highly radioactive sources and in the transfer of nuclear technology. For that reason, it had attached great importance to participating in the conference held in Vienna in July 2005 to consider and approve amendments to the CPPNM aimed at strengthening the existing legal framework and preventing and combating related offences. The international community had a shared responsibility when it came to controlling nuclear and radioactive material and preventing it from becoming a threat to collective security. His country welcomed the steps taken to establish a legal framework in that regard based on the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. It also welcomed the progress made with respect to the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors, the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and other recently developed safety standards.

181. Notwithstanding the deplorable acts of terrorism in a number of Member States in the past five years, it was the duty of all countries to work to promote peaceful coexistence and the international principles of equality and human solidarity. Multilateralism was the only possible option in international relations. Ecuador had recently concluded an agreement with the Agency to hold a

pan-American meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on nuclear and radiological security in Quito on 3 and 4 April 2006, to seek ways of strengthening the legal framework in the Americas in order to develop effective strategies to protect against the improper use of nuclear material.

182. Any international regime for the safe transport of nuclear material had to make provision for the principle of liability in the event of an accident or an incident for harm to human health and the environment and for economic loss. Transparent and smooth communications between States on the movement of radioactive material, especially by sea, was also important. New mechanisms for dialogue with shipping States should be promoted and the Agency's monitoring role should be strengthened.

183. His country attached great importance to the Agency's verification and safeguards activities and had worked actively on strengthening the safeguards system. In that connection, SQPs, which were a weakness in the safeguards system, should be amended to eliminate existing limitations.

184. All States party to the NPT had an inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, provided they complied with their obligations stemming from the Treaty in full, with complete transparency and without delay.

185. Ecuador shared the concerns of many States regarding the need to clarify matters relating to the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The resolution approved by the Board on 24 September on the implementation of safeguards in Iran aimed at strengthening the Board's decisions on that issue. His country was convinced that the dialogue pursuant to the Paris agreement would resume soon, so that a negotiated solution could be reached. It urged Iran to contribute positively to the objectives of transparency and confidence-building so that it could soon receive the benefits of nuclear power under terms established in the negotiations and in keeping with non-proliferation objectives.

186. His country welcomed the agreement reached in Beijing in the six-party talks. It hoped that a definitive comprehensive settlement could be reached and that the DPRK would abandon its military nuclear programme, return to the NPT regime and accept Agency safeguards.

187. Ecuador was committed to security, safeguards and verification, but all efforts to establish a legal and institutional framework would be in vain without international cooperation on development. The Agency made an important contribution in such areas as sustainable development, health, nutrition, agriculture, energy, environmental protection, water resources management and the fight against poverty and disease, but greater efforts and more resources were needed.

188. He thanked the Agency for the support it was giving to projects in Ecuador, which were contributing to sustainable growth. In the next biennium, Ecuador hoped it would receive significantly increased assistance in such priority areas as radiological safety, nuclear medicine, applications in the petroleum industry, equipment and its maintenance, and training.

189. His country had made every effort to meet its NPCs on time and to pay off its arrears to the technical cooperation programme and the Regular Budget. It had contributed \$150 000 to the TCF for a project in the area of health care and the fight against cancer.

190. The Ecuadorian Atomic Energy Commission was working to bring national legislation on the handling of radioactive material into line with Agency standards and to strengthen its regulatory capacity in such areas as radiological protection, security, safe transport of material and sources, and the management of radioactive waste. Those initiatives clearly demonstrated Ecuador's commitment to all Agency activities, which should be taken into account when approving cooperation projects for the next biennium.

191. Mr. BALZAN (Malta), noting the many challenges the international community was facing, said that the NPT remained the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime, with disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy at its foundation. It was therefore regrettable that the 2005 NPT Review Conference had been unable to achieve the desired outcome. Malta fully subscribed to the need for a strong system of international safeguards to promote collective security. To that end, the Government of Malta had signed and ratified an additional protocol to its safeguards agreement in July 2005. It encouraged States that had not yet done so to conclude safeguards agreements and additional protocols.

192. At a time when the international community had intensified its efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism, including nuclear terrorism, the role of the Agency in promoting nuclear safety and security had assumed greater importance. Efforts to strengthen the physical protection of nuclear material, in particular through the successful conference to amend the CPPNM, were most welcome. The Government of Malta had been one of the first countries to sign the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in September 2005. With the continued support, enhanced cooperation and goodwill of its Member States, the Agency should continue to make its vital contribution to international peace and security.

193. He had listened with attention to the statement made by the Director General on the Agency's achievements in the preceding year. In that statement, he had emphasized, inter alia, the Agency's concerted efforts to develop non-power nuclear applications related to human health, agriculture and the environment. That was of particular interest to countries such as Malta that did not use nuclear power.

194. Thanks to the support and cooperation it had received from the Agency, Malta had enacted the necessary legislation on radiation protection and nuclear safety and had established a national regulatory authority, the Radiation Protection Board.

195. As a small island state with limited natural resources, investment in human resources constituted a vital dimension of the country's economic and social development. The assistance Malta was receiving from the Agency in the field of medical uses of radiation, environmental protection, strengthening of regulatory capabilities, preservation of cultural heritage and national preparedness in the event of a radiological accident were most welcome additions to that investment.

196. Malta was participating in a number of national and regional projects within the framework of the Agency's technical cooperation programme. Those activities provided excellent opportunities for a number of dedicated personnel to participate in training courses as well as in international conferences related to their professional work.

197. Malta noted with satisfaction the Agency's efforts to improve the effectiveness of the technical cooperation programme through greater dialogue with Member States and higher quality projects. Increased cooperation with other institutions would also contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of technical cooperation programmes. In that connection, he mentioned the Mediterranean initiative which had been proposed by Malta and had received support from a substantial number of Mediterranean States. Under that initiative, a programme of activities had been developed aimed at assisting Member States to coordinate at regional level national activities for the assessment of radionuclides in the marine environment, application of tracer techniques to environmental pollution assessment, preservation of cultural heritage and strengthening of national capabilities in radiation, waste and transport safety in the Mediterranean region.

198. Mr. KODAH (Jordan) said that the Agency's achievements in harnessing the potential of nuclear energy and radiation technology for the benefit of the individual, society and the environment had allayed the fears generated by nuclear energy and led to the use of nuclear technology in such key

areas as water resources management, agricultural and industrial production, health care, combating desertification, desalination of seawater, and electricity generation.

199. Jordan made a point of paying all its contributions both to the Regular Budget and to the TCF. It also hosted regional activities organized by the Agency to the extent that its resources permitted.

200. His country was implementing a large number of national projects in cooperation with the Agency in the areas of nuclear medicine, agricultural pest control and yield enhancement, and training of human resources in the use of radioactive sources and in radiation safety and security. It was also involved in regional projects aimed at strengthening the infrastructure for radiation protection and the safety and security of radioactive sources.

201. Under its regulatory programme, Jordan had established an independent task force and had provided it with the requisite equipment and facilities. It had enacted legislation regulating the use of nuclear energy and radiation technology and had promulgated regulations and guidelines on radiation protection, transport safety, waste management and the safety and security of radioactive sources based on Agency safety standards and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

202. The comprehensive safeguards regime was a main pillar of the Agency's work and the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, which enjoyed virtually universal support. He commended States that had signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the Agency and urged those which had not yet done so to remedy the omission. His own country had consistently honoured its obligations in that regard. Jordan attached great importance to the application of safeguards to all nuclear activities in the Middle East, since the Agency was the sole authority capable of providing assurances regarding compliance with safeguards agreements in the region. His Government was of the view that Israel should accede to the NPT and sign and implement a comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol with the Agency. Jordan had always expressed strong support for the creation of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in order to build mutual confidence and achieve peace, stability and development in the region and the world as a whole.

203. Mr. LEKUNI (Botswana) said that his country believed in the peaceful uses of atomic energy for all mankind and would uphold the principles of the NPT safeguards regime, including the additional protocol. Efforts by any nation or group to divert atomic energy to military uses, whether directly or indirectly, should be discouraged at all costs.

204. Since becoming a Member State in January 2002, Botswana had continued to pursue efforts aimed at meeting its obligations in that regard. It had become abundantly clear that, in the face of natural calamities, diseases, security threats and economic downturns, the Agency's programmes were increasingly being recognized as providing viable and sustainable solutions. The peaceful application of nuclear technology provided a glimmer of hope in the face of those increasing hardships, especially where it could provide solutions in the area of agricultural production to reduce or eliminate hunger and poverty, where it could improve health care or provide access to safe drinking water, or where it could be used in industrial development or environmental protection.

205. The Government of Botswana was anxious to fulfil its obligations. Efforts to establish a legislative framework and regulatory infrastructure were at an advanced stage, with a draft atomic energy bill ready for submission to the cabinet and parliament for approval. Furthermore, the Government had approved appropriate resources, including staff, to ensure the regulatory body's effective establishment.

206. The cabinet had also approved the signing of an NPT safeguards agreement and additional protocol with the Agency, although the date for the signing had yet to be set, and Botswana was ready

to sign the Revised Supplementary Agreement Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the IAEA.

207. Botswana's Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology continued to register all radioactive sources and generators in the country. Site inspections, albeit on a smaller scale, had begun to assess compliance with the Basic Safety Standards. The Agency had provided purposeful and invaluable support in the form of expert advice and staff training, for which his country was grateful. There was still, however, much to be done to meet the milestones set by the Agency.

208. The agricultural sector in Botswana could contribute significantly to addressing the crucial development challenges of food security, poverty alleviation, employment creation, economic diversification and environmental management. Agriculture currently provided approximately 20% of the employment within the country and most of the population depended on the sector for their livelihood. The Government of Botswana therefore attached great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation programmes aimed at increasing agricultural production using nuclear science and technology. Potential areas of cooperation included, but were not limited to, plant pest control using the SIT, improvement of crop yield through induced mutation and nutrient uptake, improving the productivity of livestock with respect to both milk and meat using assisted reproduction techniques such as artificial insemination and multiple ovulation, and improved diagnosis of animal diseases.

209. Botswana continued to experience difficulties in establishing facilities for brachytherapy, largely owing to a lack of functional infrastructure. Thus, patients were still sent to treatment facilities outside the country, which involved financial hardship and compromised patient comfort and well-being. There was also a lack of diagnostic equipment to detect metastases. His country hoped that the Agency would continue to provide expert advice and assistance in that regard.

210. The HIV/AIDS pandemic continued to create untold hardships in Botswana's health care system. Efforts were therefore under way to carry out research using stable isotopes, with the Agency's assistance, on food and nutrition intervention techniques. It was hoped that would provide crucial information on the effectiveness of food baskets and feeding programmes, facilitating HIV/AIDS management.

211. In conclusion he expressed sincere gratitude to the Agency for its continued support and assistance and reaffirmed Botswana's support for the Agency's ideals and objectives and its readiness to cooperate with the organization in every possible way.

212. Mr. ZHANTIKIN (Kazakhstan) said that the events of the preceding year had once again demonstrated the complexity of creating an atmosphere of mutual trust in the world.

213. The NPT was the key instrument of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the successful implementation of its provisions had stimulated the further development of international control regimes for other types of weapons of mass destruction. It was therefore very important to maintain the effectiveness of the NPT and all measures aimed at strengthening the regime for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. First and foremost, that meant absolute compliance with the obligations assumed by all parties to the NPT.

214. Kazakhstan was an active participant in practically all of the initiatives to reduce the nuclear threat: the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. It had also recently signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

215. His country was taking measures to strengthen radiation control at its borders and to improve further the system for combating illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material. It fully supported Security Council resolution 1540.

216. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources understood the danger of high-enriched material and had adopted a five-year programme to convert the WWR-K research reactor to low-enriched nuclear fuel. Work was continuing on the safe decommissioning of the BN-350 fast breeder reactor at Aktau. At the Ulba Metallurgical Plant in Ust-Kamenogorsk, work had begun to blend down highly enriched uranium. A production line launch ceremony would be held there the following month.

217. Kazakhstan had begun implementing the provisions of the new Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. Projects were being successfully implemented on strengthening the system for control of ionizing radiation sources and on the safe and secure management of high-power sources. Instruments had been prepared for the creation of a national register of ionizing radiation sources and an inventory was being taken of radioactive sources in the country. Kazakhstan was grateful for the support and effective assistance of the Agency and of the countries participating in those and other similar programmes.

218. With the support of the Government of Kazakhstan, a nuclear technology company had recently been registered in the city of Kurchatov which was to become a base for developing peaceful applications of atomic energy, including the development of nuclear power in the country. The Government was also supporting large projects such as the construction of a heavy ion accelerator in Astana and a materials science research tokamak. Both projects had reached the stage of manufacture and assembly of the main equipment. In Almaty, a large nuclear medicine centre was being planned. Its construction was also being supported by the Government.

219. Kazakhstan recognized every country's right to develop peaceful nuclear technologies and the Agency should provide every possible assistance with such activities in accordance with its Statute. Ways needed be found to solve conflict situations that had recently arisen which, without infringing on the rights of countries to technological development and access to knowledge, would restore the world community's confidence in the peaceful nature of the activities in question. It was a very complex task, but the experience of the Agency and its Director General gave room for hope that it could be achieved successfully.

220. His country fully adhered to all generally accepted norms in its export control policy. As a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, it was taking effective measures to fulfil its obligations with regard to strengthening of the nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime. A system for combating illicit trafficking in nuclear material and technology had been created and was being constantly improved upon. At the same time, careful consideration was needed with respect to the introduction of new restrictions on the transfer of nuclear technology in order not to create unreasonable barriers to the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

221. Mr. ESTEVES DOS SANTOS (ABACC) said that 2005 had marked the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of Iguazu, when the Presidents of Argentina and Brazil had declared their understanding that nuclear technology and science would play a fundamental role in the economic and social development of both countries. In that spirit, in 1985, the Governments of Argentina and Brazil had taken many decisions aimed at integration, including setting up a working group to analyse and evaluate both countries' nuclear programmes, which had laid the bases for the creation of ABACC. A number of activities had been carried out in both countries to design a common system of accounting for and control of nuclear material as a clear demonstration of transparency. ABACC had been created in 1991, the first regional nuclear accounting and control organization in South America. Regional

nuclear organizations were a creative way to address important technical issues while respecting cultural and local values and not losing sight of the ultimate objective of nuclear control.

222. It was 14 years since ABACC had been created, the culmination of a long historical process of confidence building and the forging of a strategic alliance between Argentina and Brazil in the nuclear sector. Since that time, many efforts had been undertaken to develop a safeguards organization with international credibility in the non-proliferation field. ABACC's activities included the verification of the completeness and correctness of the nuclear inventories of both countries, the development of a unique safeguards approach for sensitive uranium enrichment facilities, the training of highly qualified staff, the implementation of joint procedures with the Agency for equipment use and inspection, participation in most international technical groups on non-proliferation and safeguards, and the implementation of safeguards approaches for all nuclear installations in both countries.

223. ABACC had helped to assure the international community that Argentina and Brazil had accomplished their non-proliferation goals and that their nuclear programmes were for peaceful purposes. Even when ABACC completed the negotiation of the Facility Attachments for all 76 nuclear installations in the two countries, its mission would be far from complete. The implementation of safeguards was a long path, the most important part of which was to keep all facilities safeguarded. Over the period 2004–2005, all nuclear material and other items placed under safeguards in Argentina and Brazil had been used exclusively for peaceful purposes or had been appropriately accounted for. ABACC had found no indication of the existence of undeclared nuclear material in either country.

224. With regard to its technical activities, ABACC had recently been focusing on the safeguards approach for the first commercial uranium enrichment plant in Brazil. That safeguards approach had been the fruit of a partnership between ABACC, the Agency and the National Nuclear Energy Commission of Brazil. Originally, the approach had been based on permanent perimeter control employing containment and surveillance techniques. Later, it had evolved into a more pragmatic concept based on the same principle as the so-called Hexapartite Project, with improvements in surveillance and containment at certain points in the plant. Furthermore, a unique implementation of design information verification methodology gave the Agency and ABACC tools to meet their obligations. The main idea behind the safeguards approach had been to apply effective safeguards while at the same time protecting the technological secrets of the facility. The protection of such secrets was an important goal to be pursued in the non-proliferation field.

225. In Argentina, ABACC had updated and installed new and important surveillance and containment systems which allowed for more efficient inspection. The updating and enhancement of verification equipment was essential for effective and efficient safeguards implementation. The Agency relied on the contributions of both countries to keep technological instrumentation up to date.

226. The Governments of Argentina and Brazil had requested that ABACC and the Agency continue to pursue coordination as a permanent goal, in order to achieve cost-effectiveness in safeguards activities and avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. A common book auditing procedure had been officially approved and successfully implemented, and the number of joint inspections and joint equipment use procedures had increased.

227. With regard to information technology and training, ABACC and the Agency had initiated a number of activities during the preceding three years to improve safe communication. Measures had been taken to increase and reinforce the security of safeguards information on electronic media. The use of encrypted data transmission between both organizations had been successfully implemented in some areas and was expected to be enhanced in the near future.

228. The implementation of effective safeguards required well trained personnel. Thus, ABACC continued to promote training events, support workshops on intercomparison of data, and encourage

the participation of its officials in the most important safeguards events. Ongoing training was an essential tool for good safeguards application.

229. Owing to the growing discussions of non-proliferation issues in the media, it was necessary to provide better information to the public about ABACC's activities. For that reason, ABACC had improved its website. As well as presenting the history of the organization, it provided information on safeguards and links to the most important organizations in the nuclear field. The ABACC news bulletin had been modernized, which was an additional source of safeguards and non-proliferation information for the public. Ongoing education was a way to ensure that new generations were informed about nuclear proliferation risks.

230. In conclusion, he thanked Dr. Elias Palacios, who was leaving ABACC and had contributed greatly to the enhancement of the organization, and he wished him well in his new post. ABACC was committed to improving the effectiveness of safeguards application, and to the nuclear partnership between Argentina and Brazil.

The meeting rose at 7.45 p.m.